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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALFORNIA

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June 2013

The Feedline

The May Pole is not the same as Pole Dancing!

Hmmm, the weather we're seeing is still too damn cool for my tastes and while personally I like the weather moderate, my trade skill likes it hot which equates into big $$$ for me and my lazy feral cat who does nothing but sleep in his cardboard box condo until about mid day and switches out into the backyard under one of the fruit trees until dinner time!

You know, this club has a fine batch of repeaters up on Mt. Vaca and with the owner of them voicing his opinion at the May 9th meeting, it echo's what I've voiced in the past to this club membership in that no one is on the machines outside of those early morning commuters and the weekly Net. For me, I'm looking forward to the linking project the repeater owner is undertaking. I only hope the upgrading effort isn't a total waste. It was great to see and listen to Skipp, WV6F as well of how nice it was of him to bring in his testing equipment for those members who brought in their radios. For me, at least I know now my FT-7900 needs repairs.

It's bittersweet this year in holding the annual ARRL Field Day event in that it would have been nice to once again gain access to our departed silent key, Larry Hogue, W6OMF property, but at the same time, this club will now have to find and establish a new location. Presently, the event is to be held out at the Vacaville Nut Tree Airport in front of the field's operations building, but an onsite check of any RFI has yet to checked. I was one of the persons to go out and

check for any problem RFI, but due to work constraints, I haven't been able to. Another member was supposed to do this, too

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Meeting Notes from Thursday, 9 May, 2Ø13

VVRC President, Marcus - KI6WDX, called the May meeting to order at 19:ØØ hr, at the Elmira Fire House. In attendance were:

Six board members: Marcus Maclean – KI6WDX; Skip Lawson – AF6HC; Bob Hewitt – K6HEW; Chris Jones – KD7TQO; Richard Craig – KJ6MIB; Arthur Miller – KI6UXE; Along with members: Jerry Bowen – KJ6SCC; Skipp May – WV6F; and Visitors: Les Cobb – W6TEE; Mathew Cobb – W6KDJ; Kim Ware – KJ6JNX; Shiloh Conrad – KI6WXR; Greg Aton – AG6TF.

It was announced at the start that we needed to keep things "*short and sweet*" because the main focus of the evening **HAD** to be the upcoming Field Day exercise – if it was going to be a reality.

The minutes for the April meeting were accepted as published, and the Finance report was accepted as reported by our Treasurer – Bob – K6HEW.

During the *OLD BUSINESS* portion, it was mentioned that some lite-weight TV antenna - type towers might become available in the near future. Stay tuned for possible more to follow on this.

Less Cobb – W6TEE, visiting from the North Hills Radio Club, in Sacramento – spoke briefly about the upcoming Swap Meet to be held at the Natomas High School, 19 May.

Skip – AF6HC, opened his portion of the meeting regarding the up-coming Field Day exercise saying that this was "***THE***" "***make-or-break***" session… and that we were completely out of time to introduce a lot of "maybe's", "what-if's", or other changes... We needed a solid plan – **NOW! – TONIGHT!-** or it might not happen at all.

He reiterated what he had already shared at the site walk-through with the BOD's a week earlier, outlining his plan, and the agreement he had reached with the Nut Tree Airport Manager. However, it began to seem that some of the drive and commitment was beginning to fade, and those who thought they'd still like to participate weren't at all prepared with, or able to commit, any of the equipment necessary to actually set

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Feedline-from pg-1..Cont

although lately, that member have remained very quiet despite a couple of emails sent to him recently that have gone unanswered. I know his health has been bothering him and that could be the reason.

At the present time, I have 16 QSO's verified either electronically or by a QSL card not to mention the foreign countries such as Austria, Spain, West Africa, Mexico, Haiti, South America and the Swains Island DXpedition last September. I almost had Vancouver, B.C., but he faded out to fast for me to catch him. What equipment am I using? My Yaesu FT-450 HF rig, an LDG YT-450 external 10:1 tuner, a 1:1 balun and my dirt cheap G5RV wire dipole I bought from MFJ for an astounding wad of cash that broke my bank account in the amount of $45!!! Just a real simple wire dipole using 14 gauge stranded copper wire and a 450 Ohm ladder line up in the air about 40 feet mounted as a lazy inverted V or more like angled if one looks at it. What I don't understand much less read about is why aren't more of this club's members getting on the air aside from those established operators? With every QSO I make, I let others know about it!

Well, if things work out for me since getting the dirt cheap G5RV antenna up in the air with the help of Jerry, KD6WKY earlier this year, I'm hoping to have a WAS plaque adorning my shack's room walls soon if not before the end of 2013. After that feat is accomplished, it's onto the WAC plaque. And with the removal of the used Rohn 25G tower sections from the Mt. Vaca repeater site that Skipp, WV6F graciously gave me, I'm hoping to get the sections cleaned up from the slight rusting appearance each section has so that I can get about the task of putting up at least one 40 or perhaps 60 foot tower with a nice beam atop it. I guess what I'm doing and accomplishing is because after getting my ticket, I wasn't satisfied with just having an HT radio vowing instead to make to most of my "fun money" in buying radios that would allow me the most fun and "bang for the buck" in setting up my shack operations. And after having just installed my Yaesu ATAS-120A mobile HF antenna on my truck that sports other VHF/UHF antennas, all I have left to do is install a new power cord for the radio and get the coax cable inside the truck both of which is fairly easy and then I'm going up to someplace like Cisco Grove and try of the new antenna with my FT-450 rig and see about making some DX QSO's!! That's one of the nice features within the FT-450 rig. Within its menu is a setting for using the ATAS-120A antenna that makes tuning it easy. The ATAS-120A will get me on 6, 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters including both 2 meters and 70 cm's if I so choose.

Is anyone going to take advantage of those unwanted Rohn towers up in Dixon by helping to remove them and to find a home for each one? Don't let this opportunity pass you by since buying a tower of the height those in Dixon are is outright expensive. Dirt cheap or free works for me!! Does it work for you as well? Think about what a good used tower could do for your shack's operations and QSO possibilities you've been wanting but can't make happen!

Who else is doing as much as possible with amateur radio these days? Anyone??

Well, that's about all for the moment. Until next month, be safe, be well and G.O.T.A.!

73

Marcus K. Maclean, KI6WDX

President

Meeting notes from pg-1..Cont

up an operational radio location.

As the evening wore on, more "***I think that we ought to do this***" and, "***I think we ought to do that***" – type changes began to surface and Skip finally closed the discussion saying that he'd try to sit down and draw up a list of what equipment we had to work with, and what he might be able to scare-up from someplace else. He requested that those still interested, to please contact him with a list of whatever they could contribute to this "pot-luck" effort.

Secretary's Comment: as I prepare this for the newsletter, it's been over two weeks since our meeting, and not one person has gotten back to me with any offers or suggestions for equipment, ie: radios, antenna poles, coax, generators, fuel, extension cords, lighting, tables, chairs, food, a computer for logging, or anything!

Folks – to restate the obvious: it's a little difficult to set up a radio station without any of the above items. If we – corporately – as the VVRC, had a club station that we could "pack-n-drag" to some location, all this discussion would be a moot point. But since we don't – it's not, and since what's left of the membership isn't forthcoming with what we need, it appears that Field Day – 2013 - regretfully - isn't going to happen!

To end the evening, Skipp – WV6F was kind enough to

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Marcus K. Maclean, KI6WDX
Vice President: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6GZB
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

bring some test equipment into the meeting and run some quick tests on some of the member's personal radios. Good to know info for sure… Thanks Skipp!

In closing, he shared his plans to link the 2M / 220 / 440 repeaters up the valley, and… how we all stood to gain with this change of operation. He also shared that he'd very much like to resurrect the wonderful old-style *Grip-N-Grin* gathering and swap-meet tradition that our late friend, now SK, Larry Hogue - W6OMF, started so many years ago.

With that, we drained the lights, locked the doors and called it a "day" until next month –the ***June Bar-B-Que!*** Stay tuned for more info on that!

Respectfully submitted,
Skip Lawson – AF6HC

Suggested Newsletter Changes

I am planning to make a few modifications to the newsletter hopefully to create a more interesting publication.

The following list of ideas are what I have in mind:

1. Add a for sale and swap column limited to ham radio items only
2. Create an email address to the newsletter editor for comments, stories, suggestions, photos such as ham rigs and antennas etc. from members of the club.
3. Subject to approval of the officers of the club, publish an agenda for the following meeting so members will have a reminder of what the next meeting will be about.

Communication is one of the most important things a club can have to keep members interested in their organization.

The above suggestions are open to feedback from you.

I have created a members feedback e-mail address at vvrnewsfeedback@earthlink.net for your use.

I look forward to anything you may have to suggest or change and any stories you may want to contribute.

Jerry
KJ6SCC

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Treasures From Local Hamfests

Jerry, KJ6SCC

I had a little extra cash so I decided to head for the Sonoma Hamfest that was held on April 27th.

I had never been to one of these before and I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I wasn't quite sure where to go but as I got closer to Sonoma I began seeing several vehicles with ham antennas on them. The closer we got to Sonoma, the more vehicles and pretty soon it was quite a line of Hams heading to the same place, so I just followed them.

I pulled into the Veteran's Memorial Building parking lot and lucked out with a spot right next to the vendors.

I began my rounds of the vendors and immediately started spotting a wide selection of "boat anchors" which is what I was hoping for.

To make a long story short, I spent my money in quick time and loaded my new found prize possessions into the car. It was fully loaded and I was broke wishing that I had brought more money…and my truck!

Well, not having satisfied my lust for more vintage equipment I started scrimping and saving money for the Sacramento Hamfest that was to take place on May 19th.

The 19th finally arrived and I was on my way to Sacramento, once again following a line of vehicles with ham antennas.

The school parking was already loaded with vehicle even though I arrived before opening time.

There were so many vendors and so many goodies I had to tour the are several times before unloading all my cash.

I left with a variety of vintage Hallicrafter receivers, a Hammerlund HQ-129X and HQ-180A, and HP-606A signal generator.

I'm tired, broke but very happy and looking forward to no more hamfests…until maybe next year.

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3 The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

Alan McCarthy: AA6GM

I've been trying to collect any history that I can about the Vaca Valley Radio club. During my search I found this article by Lou Ann Keogh, KH6HP in a November 1996 issue of *World Radio News.*

Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC

"Alpha alpha six Germany Mexico, AA6 Golf Mike." That was the call as Alan gave it on the air. Alan McCarthy loved Amateur Radio, and everything and everyone associated with it. President of the Vaca Valley Radio Club many times, fixer of radios and a: general all-round good guy, he was one of those people who had an almost contagious laugh that would start from his toes and resulted in every one else being in stitches, too.

From the time he was a very young man he had been fascinated by radio. Not just operating the but why and how they worked. He delighted in both phone and CW and always jumped at the chance to visit the station of a "big gun" for a contest, or go out with the radio club and do a full-tilt Field day operation. High-speed' CW was a special delight of his, and he served as Elmer to many newcomers to Amateur Radio.

Ham radio led to a career is broadcasting, and Alan served as broadcast engineer at KUIC-FM KXBT AM, in Vacaville, California: and at the time of his death, KHYL-FM, and KFBK-AM in the state capital.

On a hot summer day many years ago, Alan was helping out with the raising of an antenna system. The late WB6ETN watched as this big tall, strong boy pushed and pulled and ultimately got everything just right. He said "Alan, I know just what your phonetics for that new 2x2 call sign of yours should be –"As Able As Six Good Men."'

On 26 August 1996, Alan McCarthy died of a sudden heart attack. He was 45.

Alan is survived by his beloved fiancée, Shauna Manina, mother and sisters.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC

In the early days of radio before "Hams" spark transmission was all the rage among the young folks. They were inventive, built their own transmitters from a myriad of materials and junk, and actually invented better equipment. But, with some, their enthusiasm among a few went beyond good common sense and on the air vandalism caught the attention of the president of the United States in the early 1900s.

Below is a portion of a very long article from the New York Times on October 5, 1906 that shows the result.

STOP IT KID! Cries Congress

Now It is the great American Boy who has to feel the big stick.

What? President (Theodore) Roosevelt fighting the American boy, the youngster whose strength, energy, curiosity, desire to know things, to do things and whose penchant for experimenting is so characteristic of the spirit of our best nation? Impossible!

Not only possible, but also an actual fact "Swish! Swish" went the big stick over the head of the American boy last week. As to the swat that will in a measure depend upon congress, where the American youngster has many friends, who, since there is no more patronage and as it is the president's last year, may interpose.

And, strangest of all, it is the American boy's characteristic faculty of doing things that has incurred the displeasure of the president and incidentally of Uncle Sam. It is all right for the American boy to do things," says the president. He believes in that himself and practices it. He sympathizes with the kid's ambition to "know things" and find them out through practical experimenting.

That is the American inventive genius and is most commendable, declares he, but qualifies it with "within certain limits." Those limits, the president evidently thinks, should be confined to the good solid ground. It was never intended, and appears to President Roosevelt's opinion, that blue ether should be a playground for the American boy, or that be was entitled to more air than necessary for him to breathe or fly a kite.

But, when the precocious youngster begins to carry his pranks into the ethereal blue, eavesdrops, taps Uncle Sam's aerograms, interferes with wireless communications and fills the ethereal with his own *splashes,* it's time, bays the president, to step in with the big stick.

From trusts and railroad magnates to the American kid is a far cry, in degree not in kind, but not so far that he can escape the president's attention.

In itself a compliment; but when the president urges national legislation to place some limit and restrictions upon the

inventive turn of mind of the American boy and his penchant for practical experiments, decidedly It is an honor.

So numerous have been the complaints to the Navy Department from San Francisco, Newport, Washington and other cities of interferences with their wireless messages by private persons and experimental stations, that President Roosevelt has sent a message to congress urging the passage of the bill quoted elsewhere on this page regulating wireless telegraphy and placing some restrictions upon it so that government and commercial business is not interfered with. The president forwarded to congress a letter from Secretary of the Navy Metcalf calling the formers attention to the necessity of such a law and included a report citing numerous instances of interference with the government's aerograms.

Aimed at the American Boy

House Bill No. 17,719

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That it shall be a punishable offense (a) to originate or transmit a false wireless message purporting to be official; (b) or to break in and interfere with any wireless station while it is transmitting an official message: or (c) to refuse to cease or fail to cease sending a private wireless message when called upon to do so by an operator having an official message to be sent. Any person committing any one or more of the above offenses shall for each offense be punishable by a of not exceeding $2,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year or both.

While neither the president's message nor Secretary, Metcalf's letter says so, in as many words, it's apparent from the letters mentioning instances of interference, "by persons operating with no serious object," and his statement "that, laws of the nature proposed would never seriously interfere with legitimate workings of commercial wireless stations, that is the great American boy that the president is after to show how the latter is interfering with Uncle Sam's business by invading his wireless zone. It is necessary to explain the elementary principles of wireless telegraphy.

You have thrown stones in a pond and observed the ripples and wavelets on the surface of the water eradiating in all directions. If the stone was large the disturbance on the surface of the water was in proportion, and the waves larger and eradiating to a greater distance from the splash than if the stone was small. Had a large stone been followed by a small pebble, the ripples of the latter's did not interfere with the waves of the former and soon merged with them until there was no ripple perceptible to the eye.

Supposing now that the stones were thrown in with certain regularity and system the size, length and distance between the waves forming an alphabetical code, and boys around the pond were making splashes that broke up and interfered with the signal waves.

There, you get the idea in like manner the disruptive nature of an electric spark of high frequency and great intensity from a wireless apparatus through the medium of its aerial wire a splash in the ether and sets up electric oscillations other waves radiating at right angles from the aerial. These regular spaces between the waves and their length, whether dots or dashes from the signal code of letters.

Well, the president, the secretary of the navy and incidentally Uncle Sam, want the American kid to stop throwing electric stones into the ether pond that youth over the United States and through a congress they have asked that it be fenced off with their remarkable development in wireless telegraphy. In the last three years have come opportunities for experimenting which the inventive genius of the American boy has taken full advantage of the elementary principle once grasped of, has set to work to make his own instruments and the possible infringement upon of patent has not troubled his mind.

Crude were his instruments at first, it is true, but once they found that they worked it spurred him on to greater effort and he set to work improving them not alone by copying after the latest style and pattern and keeping in touch with the latest inventions discoveries, but made his own independent experiments.

Today there is not a large city in the United 1States, especially where commercial government wireless stations are established, where numerous aerials cannot be seen on housetops, on tops of barns, in trees, on windmills and other places in San Francisco and the bay towns. There are more than a score of such stations put up and operated by boys from 10 to l8 years of age.

Alameda and Berkeley are fairly dotted with them. In a Berkeley station I found a condenser made out of a number of quart milk jars, the tuner out of five gallon distilled water demijohns and the ambitious inventor at work making a more powerful Leyden Jar condenser out of a number of seltzer water bottles from which he had gotten, but upon clapping the receiver to my ears I heard the Point Loma calling the cruiser West which was then about off the southern California coast, and a little later, heard the Mare Island's Navy Yard burning a hole in the atmosphere with his sulphuric words, swearing at an American boy somewhere in Alameda for butting in with his spark when he was working.

ARLB013 FCC Seeks Small Vanity Call Sign Fee Increase

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on May 23, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs by 20 cents.

Currently, a vanity call sign costs $15 and is good for 10 years. The new fee, if approved, will go up to $15.20 for 10 years.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

The NPRM can be found in PDF format at,

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2013/db0523/FCC-13-74A1.pdf

Visit the "Call Sign Renewals or Changes" web page at

http://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes

for complete instructions on how to have the ARRL renew your license for you or for how to do it yourself.

Hamfest at Sonoma

Free Antenna Towers

Only requirement is you take it down. There are three available so far in Dixon.
For those that want any of these towers, contact me at the newsletter feedeback address email <vvrnewsfeedback@earthlink.net>
and I will give you the telephone number for the contact person.
Jerry, KJ6SCC

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

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City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues $15.00 _____
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Optional ARRL membership
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